

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 11, 2006. Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1 and 11 are in independent form. Claims 1, 4, and 11-16 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The Office Action imposes a further election-of-species requirement which requires election of one of the following species:

Species I: the embodiment disclosed in Figs. 1 and 3, i.e., the first embodiment (see, for example, page 12, lines 17-25 of the specification); and

Species II: the embodiment disclosed Figs. 4 and 5, i.e., the second embodiment (see, for example, page 21, line 19 et seq. of the specification).

Applicant maintains the provisional election of Species II, on which Claims 1-18 are readable, for initial prosecution on the merits. Applicant submits that at least Claims 1 and 11 are generic, for the following reasons.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus connected to at least an external controller via an external bus. First image processing means processes input image data. Image storage means stores image data processed by the first image processing means. Second image processing means processes image data read from the image storage means. Output control means outputs image data processed by the first image processing means via the external bus. Preservation means preserves the result of processing on the image data by the first processing means. Pseudo master means control a preservation operation by the preservation means, in correspondence with image data output by the output control means.

Claim 1 has been amended such that the preservation means preserves the result of processing on the image data by the first processing means. As such, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is generic.

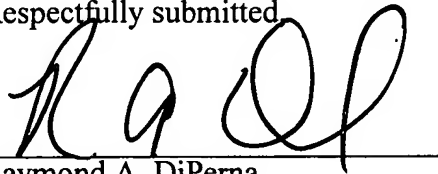
Amended Claim 11 is similar in many relevant respects to amended Claim 1, and therefore Applicant submits that Claim 11 is generic as well.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that at least Claims 1 and 11 are generic, and that all of the pending claims (Claims 1-18) are readable on Species II.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raol', written over a horizontal line.

Raymond A. DiPerna
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,063

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 586374v1